

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1535
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002
CONCESSION FOR TELEPHONE CALLS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the telecom Department has reduced the comparative concessions for telephone calls being made after 9 p.m.;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not favouring the use of telecom facilities for long-distance calls after 9 p.m.;
- (c) whether there is ample telecom long-distance calling capacity after 9 p.m.;
- (d) if so, the steps taken to extend concession to calls made after 9 p.m.; and
- (e) the reasons for charging the same rates for all calls after 8 p.m. by BSNL and MTNL?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) to (e): The STD rates have been reduced substantially ranging between 50 and 62.5% with effect from 14.1.2002. The tariff structure has been rationalized and made simple by merging the three concessional off-peak time slabs between 8 PM and 9 AM into one off-peak slab, viz. 8 PM to 9 AM, while retaining the peak time as 9 AM to 8 PM. The benefit of reduced tariff is thus available during the entire off-peak period. The off-peak rates from 14.1.2002 are lower than the off-peak rates prevalent prior to 14.12.2002. There is adequate long-distance calling capacity available to cater to the traffic demands barring a few isolated locations where it is being upgraded. This arrangement, while providing more benefit to the customers, has ensured better utilization of long-distance capacity.